

Appl. No. 10/022,444
Amdt. dated December 27, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 29, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1-3 and 12-20 under 35 USC 103(a) per Janik et al. (US 2002/0078248).

Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 12-20 based upon Janik et al. (US 2002/0078248). Janik teaches a handheld information handling apparatus (PDA) and a connector interface (adapter module). Janik's goal for the docking cradle, as explained in paragraphs [0006]-[0012], is to allow a device such as "the OmniSky Wireless Modem" of paragraphs [0007]-[0008] to remain attached to the PDA while the PDA is plugged into a docking cradle, in order perform hot-synchronization with a host PC and to use an external A/C adapter power source as mentioned in paragraph [0008]. As a side issue, Janik notes in paragraph [0009] that some PDAs include CompactFlash card slots for adding cards, and notes a battery-life problem due to such cards' power requirements in paragraph [0010].

Crucially, in Janik's paragraph [0032], Janik states: "Adapter-to-cradle connector 24 is identical electrically and mechanically to PDA connector 50" (see Janik's Fig.4 (adapter) and Fig.5 (PDA)). Also, in Janik's paragraph [0031], Janik states: "Adapter-to-PDA connector 22 is identical electrically and mechanically to the cradle connector 58" (see Janik's Fig.1 (cradle, prior-art) and Fig.2 (adapter)).

Focusing on claims 1, 12, 13, 14, and 20, Examiner cites Janik's use of a wireless LAN device in paragraph [0036], as opposed to a serial connection in paragraph [0039], as using "a reduced set of signals". However, Janik neither teaches nor suggests this, since the wireless LAN device of paragraph [0036] is communicating with the PDA using the identical connection cited in paragraph [0039], as evidenced by the above-cited remarks from paragraphs [0031] and [0032]. Janik neither teaches nor suggests reducing the pin count (which is Applicants' "reduced set of

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signals") of the interface connector of the PDA while retaining the ability to communicate with other devices or expansion cards.

5 Regarding claim 1, a feature of Applicants' invention is to reduce connector size while still allowing the use of devices with wide parallel connections, such as PCMCIA cards, as discussed in Applicants' paragraph [0023]: "In the present embodiment, the number of pins needed for the connector 106, and connector 108, is reduced by converting parallel signals of either PCMCIA or COMPACT FLASH format into serial signals. Because serial signals require less connector pins for
10 representing same data bytes than parallel signals, the size of the connector 106 and 108 can be compacted." Applicants state that an "object of the present invention is to provide a method and apparatus for reducing the number of pins and the size of the connector interface between a PDA and its jacket" (Applicants' paragraph [0011]). Applicants' paragraph [0009] notes that "The reduction in pin number on
15 the compact connector interface is proportional to the parallel-serial conversion ratio." Applicants' invention is designed to reduce the pin count of connectors and the set of signals that currently would require wide connectors with many pins.

20 Regarding claim 12, Janik fails to teach or suggest that the connectors of his docking cradle have "connector pins whose number is less than the number specified" in the relevant protocol for a device being attached. To the contrary, in paragraphs [0031] and [0032], Janik clearly states that the connectors are identical both electrically and mechanically to the existing PDA's and cradle's connectors.

25 The rejected claims 2-3 and objected claim 4 are dependent on claim 1 and should be allowed if claim 1 is found to be allowable.

Claims 13-20 are dependent on claim 12 and should be allowed if claim 12 is found to be allowable.

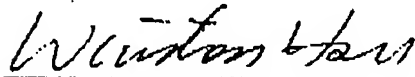
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Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the above.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,

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